

FLYING BADGER

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Flying Ops in full swing at Pope
pages 6-7

On the cover...



Maj. Greg Colby, a pilot with the 95th Airlift Squadron, flies back to Milwaukee after completing a week of Joint Airborne-Air Transportability Training (JAATT) missions at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

photo by Lt.Col. Ann Peru Knabe

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COMMAND PERSPECTIVE

The legacy lives on, make every shot count

by Col. Harry Heflin
440th Airlift Wing Inspector General

This column is usually reserved for a topic that is meant to inspire, motivate or reflect upon something — a person, place or thing — that is relevant at the time. With that thought in mind, I want to use this venue to offer my thoughts on what makes the women and men of the 440th Airlift Wing so special. I have chosen to do this with a golf analogy.

In its purest form, golf is a very simple game; just get the ball in the hole, for eighteen holes. It's the journey — the obstacles encountered throughout the round — that makes it so difficult.

So what is it that sets the top golfers in the world apart from the rest of the pack? They have the ability to focus on turning endless hours of sacrifice, training and passion into setting up winning opportunities. They understand the importance of making every shot count, but more importantly, focusing on the next shot — not the last shot. They have a vision. They trust their swing and they don't focus on the obstacles.

What then, sets the women and men of the 440th Airlift Wing apart from all the rest of the units throughout Air Force Reserve Command — and in my opinion the rest of the United States Air Force?

For me, it's not much different from the professional golfer; each member of the 440th has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to focus on the job at hand, come together as a team and get the job done safely — in



spite of the obstacles encountered along the journey. Right now, wing members remain mission ready, and even in the midst of a BRAC move, the 440th is fully combat capable.

"Maintain your passion to excel and continue to serve proudly, focus on the next shot, trust your swing and don't focus on the obstacles."

Whether you are already a part of the 440th Airlift Wing at Pope AFB, joining another Air Force unit or another branch of service, or if you have or will be retiring; remember to make every shot count.

Maintain your passion to excel and continue to serve proudly, focus on the next shot, trust your swing and don't focus on the obstacles. Do these things and you can rest assured the legacy of the 440th will live on. All the best and God's speed!

The history of the Hybrids

Dedicated Airmen key to success of Det. 1 at Pope

by Dennis Mehring

The recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission became law in November of 2005 and once it did the future of General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis., was settled. The wing was going to be moved to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., so two of the first questions that had to be answered by the members of the 440th who were staying with the wing were “How do we get this outfit moved?” and “Who is going to move first?”

The first people to move to Pope AFB arrived on August 20, 2006. They were: Col. Brett Clark, Det. 1 commander, Col. Mark Rodriguez (an individual mobilization augmentee from Oklahoma City, Okla.) Maj. Derek Poellet, Chief Master Sgt. Danny Formanski, Senior Master Sergeants Bill Westling and Lynn Klapste, Master Sergeants Terry Harper and Jennifer Drewitz, and Tech. Sergeants Dave Webster and Mark Ulmen.

The original members of Det. 1 called themselves “The Hybrids.” The best definition of a hybrid is probably “something that has two different types of components performing essentially the same function.” Having their roots and the vast majority of the wing in Wisconsin, their jobs in North Carolina would undoubtedly contribute to such a belief. The commander of the detachment was

Colonel Clark, the current 440th Operations Group commander. Colonel Clark had been the commander of the 94th Operations Group at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga., when he was given his current assignment. He said that he had two big challenges.

“I was going to ask them (the other members of Det. 1) to sprint and not jog through this assignment. The normal pace of operations that they were used to was not going to be enough. They also had to be jacks of all trades. If someone was a specialist in maintenance, that person had to be ready to drop what they were doing and help get work done in some other unrelated area.” Colonel Clark was as good as his word.

One Hybrid provided a partial list of job responsibilities taken on from 2006 to 2007: civilian timekeeper,

orders clerk, services, government purchase card management, contracting, computer support, individual equipment custodian, and vehicle management. None of these duties are part of that specialist’s normal career field.

Major Poellet was a captain when he moved himself and his family to Pope in 2006. How did he end up as a member of Det. 1?

“I was requested by Colonel Flournoy (22nd Air Force acting Chief of Staff) and I thought I shouldn’t turn down this opportunity,” Major Poellet said.

He was asked what he thought was the biggest challenge to being one of the first 440th Reservists at Pope. It did not take long for him to narrow down the challenge to “Identifying all the responsibilities that would be necessary to become self sustaining. There are so many things a wing has to do and we still have not finished that job. For example, we had to establish financial accounts, supply accounts, figure out additional duties like unit security and flight line driving managers. The NSPS system (new personnel rating system for Federal employees) has been quite a challenge.”

The easiest question he was asked

“It’s been an experience I’ll keep with me for the rest of my career.”

- Maj. Derek Poellet

was, “Are you feeling more comfortable and confident now that more people have been hired and there are more familiar faces around you? His reply was a firmly spoken, “YES! It’s been an experience I’ll keep with me for the rest of my career. I’ve learned so much about what it takes to operate a wing.”

Master Sgt. Jennifer Drewitz had this to say about her experience as a

Hybrid. “The job to date has been extreme. The processes that we took for granted back in Milwaukee were not in place for us here. The simplest task was a chore because everything had to be done from scratch. It took weeks for us to get our local line badges. We (the original Hybrids) all had to step up and take on duties outside our normal specialties. I work in Maintenance and right now I’m processing line badges for the wing.”

Even though her Reserve duties have been a challenge, Master Sgt. Drewitz said that her biggest challenge was “finding a good school for my son and finding a good place to live.” She wanted the change to be as seamless as possible.

Starting a new project is always daunting, but try to imagine the complexities involved in creating a base of operations for hundreds of interdependent people in a new location a thousand miles away from all the supports you know and are comfortable with. As of this date hundreds of people have been hired and more than a hundred ART positions still need to be filled, but the flag has been transferred, planes are being moved to North Carolina and the wing is still working and flying. Det. 1’s operations have come to an end, but the record of what they were able to accomplish in such a short time will be evident to all 440th members for months, maybe years, to come.

Dentist named new 440th MDS commander

By Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

With nearly 20 years experience serving the wing, Col. (Dr.) Richard "Bruce" Fischer assumed command of the 440th Medical Squadron last month. As he spoke to a room full of reservists during his assumption of command ceremony, the new MDS commander commented on the growth and maturity of the squadron during the last two decades.

"When I first joined the unit as a first lieutenant, we accomplished our mission, but it seemed a little disorganized," he said. "But our Airmen had outstanding qualities. Today we have the same outstanding core qualities, but have turned the unit machine into the excellence recognized by Air Force Reserve Command."

Dr. Fischer thinks the high caliber of the people will make his job easier.

"The challenge will be to lead them through our transition to Pope and a large influx of new

members," said the dentist from Tomah, Wis. Previously serving as the 440th's chief of dental services, Dr. Fischer graduated from Marquette University Dental School in Milwaukee. He joined the military in 1988, earning a direct commission, and was called to active duty for Operation Desert Storm.

A chief master dentist with more than 23 years of clinical experience, he has commanded numerous tours of duty. He has also served on medical and dental task forces for 22nd Air Force, and is a member of the Air Force Reserve Dental Advisory Board.

"Colonel Fisher has a wealth of professional experience and history with the wing," said Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing commander. "I am confident his new leadership role at Pope will shine like all of his other accomplishments."

Dr. Fischer said he refers to a print on his wall when thinking about his new role as a commander.

"To paraphrase, it says leadership is not tak-



Col. Richard "Bruce" Fischer, 440th Medical Squadron Commander

ing people where they want to go, it's taking them to where they ought to be," he said.

"I plan to use this philosophy in leading the medical squadron. With the support of the wing leadership through guidance and mentoring, I see a continued tradition of success."

Knack for numbers earns 440th reservist 22nd AF's Gen. Wagner Administrative Excellence nomination

By Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

Maj. Shanon Madrid's eagle eye for numbers and accuracy jumps-out at senior leaders in the wing and 22nd Air Force. Newly assigned to the 440th Medical Squadron, the medical service corps officer earned 22nd Air Force's nomination for the Brig. General Donald B. Wagner Administrative Excellence Award while serving as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee last year.

"She's engaged each assignment with energy and enthusiasm," said Lt. Col. Lynanne St. Laurent, Major Madrid's former commander. "She sharpened data integrity, resolved process problems and provided spectacular support in management of more than 250 manpower positions."

The reservist was nominated for the General Wagner award based on her "superior allocation of resources" and attention to detail in numerous military programs involving accounting and related documentation.

She optimized the civilian pay program in her former unit, and identified errors in accounting, saving an additional \$75,000 for medical programs. Major Madrid was also cited for her work preparing for the unit's health services inspection.

"She's one of the best," said an HIS evaluator during the inspection, referring to the reservist's work in establishing a line of duty program with clear processes and creation of a patient checklist and how-to guide that streamlined the referral

management process. The major's work resulted in a 15 percent improvement during the first month.

Major Madrid was also cited for her extensive work in the community. As the co-chair for the Garner Relay for Life walk, she helped raise more than \$650,000 for cancer research in North Carolina's largest fundraising event.

The 440th reservist also volunteers as a commander for the Apex, N.C., Civil Air Patrol. She teaches young CAP cadets the history of the military and discipline, and coordinates flying with the Young Eagles program.

"Shanon is clearly an asset to the 440th Medical Squadron," said Col. Richard "Bruce" Fischer, 440th MDS commander. "Her talent with numbers, management and people will be an excellent addition to our team."

440th nurse named 22nd AF's Outstanding Medical Reserve Officer

by Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

The sound of a helicopter landing signaled another critical patient arriving at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq. It could have been a Soldier missing limb, a Marine badly burned or an Airman with fractured bones. It didn't matter; Lt. Col. Therese Kern was ready to triage the injured, perform CPR or simply hold a scared servicemember's hand during the night. Thousands of miles from home, the 440th Airlift Wing Reservist from Wind Lake, Wis., was doing what she loved most, bedside care.

"I love the hands-on patient care," she said, referring to her air expeditionary tour in Iraq. "It's hard to describe the feeling I get when I am helping these soldiers that come in off the battlefield. It's a feeling I will never forget."

Based on her work in the war theater and skilled management back at her home unit, Colonel Kern was named 22nd Air Force's Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to a Deployable Medical Unit.

When she is not deployed, Colonel Kern serves as the 440th Medical

Squadron chief of nursing.

The medical statistics under Colonel Kern speak for themselves. During the last year, on a typical UTA, she expedited medical care for more than 700 walk-ins a month.

Under her direction, the unit gave more 5674 immunizations, performed 907 dental exams and drew 4616 blood samplings.

"The patient satisfaction rate speaks volumes," said Col. Richard "Bruce" Fischer, 440th Medical Squadron commander. "Airmen rated medical squadron performance



Lt. Col. Therese Kern cares for a young boy while deployed last year to Balad Air Base, Iraq. Her efforts earned her recognition as 22nd Air Force's Outstanding Reserve Officer Assigned to a Deployable Medical Unit.

at a 98 percent satisfaction rate. We're lucky to have a dedicated professional like Lt. Colonel Kern to help us reach this level of excellence."

Other senior officers have noted Colonel Kern's leadership ability.

She was hand-picked to supervise the night shift at the busiest hospital in Iraq, where she delivered care to more than 1200 U.S.

servicemembers, Iraqi soldiers, prisoners of war and civilians. She was praised by her coworkers and Iraqi interpreters for her compassion and empathy while caring for others.

Colonel Kern will continue her service as chief of nursing with the 440th Medical Squadron at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

440th MDS named 22nd AF's Outstanding Medical Squadron and Detachment

The 440th Medical Squadron has been named 22nd Air Force's Outstanding Medical Squadron and Detachment with Expeditionary Medical Support.

The MDS continued an aggressive deployment schedule, even after the Base Realignment and Closure commission recommended closing General Mitchell Air Reserve Station. The unit

supported multiple Air Expeditionary Flight Rotations to Puerto Rico, Alaska, Chad, Iraq and Germany. Deployed members played critical roles in helping thousands of injured servicemembers and coalition partners. One reservist saved the lives of two children while under sniper fire, and successfully defended patients during attacks.

The MDS was also lauded as one of three

Air Force Reserve units to achieve DOD's Individual Medical Readiness goal requiring more than 76 percent medical suitability of members for world-wide duty.

The squadron also demobilized members of the 95th Airlift Squadron, 440th Maintenance Squadron and 45th Airlift Wing with 100 percent satisfaction rate.



Fini Flight

As base prepares for closure, 95th Airlift Squadron maintains mission focus and salutes its own

Master Sgt. Karl Schramm doesn't put up much of a fight upon stepping off his last C-130 Hercules flight as his wife Jennifer cools him off with a stream of water from a fire truck. The water dousing is a long-standing tradition celebrating an aviator's last flight.

**Story and photos by
Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler**

After more than 20 years of flying C-130 Hercules aircraft, Lt. Col. Tony Polashek knew this day was coming — the day he'd need a towel.

Following a training mission on Saturday of the July UTA across Wisconsin, Colonel Polashek, assistant operations officer for the 95th Airlift Squadron, stepped off the aircraft and greeted his children Zach and Emily, who were waiting for him with a fire truck hose in their hands.

"It's a tradition of course," Colo-

nel Polashek said of being hosed down with water following an Airman's final flight. "At least it's summertime. We have done them in January and February too."

Col. Polashek, who is relocating to Robins Air Force Base, Ga., wasn't the only Airmen to receive the water salute. Maj. Pat Brien and Master Sgt. Karl Schramm also completed their last flights and were doused by family and friends.

Major Brien is continuing his Air Force career at Grissom Air Force Base, Ind., while Sgt. Schramm retired. The water salute tradition is typically reserved for retiring Air-

men, but with the base closing down, its been modified to give others leaving the unit for other jobs their due soaking. The training mission also marked another last of sorts, as it was the last three aircraft, large training mission at General Mitchell International Air Reserve Station.

Departing about noon July 14, Airmen in three C-130s flew their three-and-a-half hour missions across Wisconsin practicing air drops with sandbags, and completing flight evaluations for several squadron aircrew.

"It's another last and hopefully we'll be able to come back and do

something here again," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Paulus, deputy commander for operations for the 440th Operations Group. "This is kind of the natural progression of what's happening here on base as everything closes down. We're thankful maintenance has done such a great job keeping the aircraft flyable that we still have three airplanes to fly this late in the game.

"I've been flying for 20 years and it's been a big part of my life," Col. Polashek said. "I'm certainly going to miss it, but things change and you have to move on to the next thing."

FEATURE



From right to left, Maj. Jeff Dasher, Lt. Col. Blaine Phillips and Maj. Greg Colby, all with the 95th Airlift Squadron, discuss their last tactical mission originating from General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis.



Lt. Col. Tony Polashek (left) and 1st Lt. Jon Bergman, both from the 95th Airlift Squadron, walk out to a C-130 Hercules for a three-and-a-half hour training flight.



Air Force Reservist Capt. Grady Dieckert, 95th Airlift Squadron pilot, briefs Maj. Joni Clemens and Capt. Kathy Martin prior to flying an aeromedical training mission on July 19. Major Clemens served as the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical crew director on one of the flights. Captain Martin is the 43rd AES element chief for aircrew training. The July 19 flight was one of the first operational missions for the 440th Airlift Wing to fly from its new location at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. The Reserve unit moved to North Carolina from Wisconsin in June.

Thinking Smart

95th Airlift Squadron partners with active duty aeromedical squadron for 'win-win' training

Stories and photos by
Lt. Col. Ann Peru Knabe

As the “patient” struggled to breathe, the medical technicians and flight nurses from the 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron gave their best efforts to save his life. He had suffered bilateral burns on the eyes, and was being flown on a C-130. But his condition worsened. Soon he was struggling to breathe, and the aeromedical team started suctioning his mouth. Then his pulse

oximeter reading fell from 87 percent to 70 percent, and the aeromedics intubated him since he could no longer breathe on his own. The exciting part of this story is not that “the patient” survived (it was a simulated exercise, after all), but the fact that it was a 440th Airlift Wing Reserve aircrew flying active duty aeromedics.

“The training partnership is a perfect match,” said Lt.Col. Stephen Chafe, 440th Airlift Wing Det. 2 operations officer, calling it a “win-win”

situation. “The active duty aeromedical unit from Pope needs training flights that last a couple hours in the air, and the 95th Airlift Squadron needs to keep its traditional reserve aircrew members qualified.”

Colonel Chafe explained the 95th Airlift Squadron, now based at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., still has more than 50 traditional reservists who live in Wisconsin and need to maintain currency. Back at Pope AFB, the 43rd AES needed



Air Force Reservist Master Sgt. Randall Labodda, a loadmaster with the 95th Airlift Squadron, confers with Maj. Joni Clemens, 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron medical crew director, during a training flight on July 19. The flight was one of the first operational missions for the 440th Airlift Wing to fly from its new location at Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

to train their aeromedics on real-world flights.

“We were in a meeting at Pope last May, and a couple of us were talking with the aeromedics, when suddenly the light went on – why couldn’t we provide flights for aeromed training to Milwaukee? The flight to Milwaukee is a little over two hours, and we the 95th and 43rd (AES) would both benefit. The real nut to crack was how to connect the two missions.”

It didn’t take long to figure it out. The first aeromedical training from Pope to Milwaukee, and back to Pope, took place July 19. Both units felt this opportunity was an excellent use of resources. “It was an example of wonderful integration between the ‘front-end’ and AES,” said Capt. Kathy Martin, referring to the collaboration between the 95th aircrew and 43rd aeromedics. “The 95th did everything they could do to help us

have an exceptional training experience.”

As the 43rd AES element chief for aircrew training, Captain Martin looks forward to continuing the weekly training flights with the 440th.

“We had ample opportunity to practice all our scenarios,” she explained. During the two flights the aeromedics simulated treating patients with chemical burns, crush injuries, fractured bones and breathing obstructions. The 95th aircrew supported the exercise directly responding to simulate emergencies. Warning lights lit up during the flight telling the crew about simulated rapid decompression and a fire.

“The beauty of this training stateside is that it reflects what is really going on in the war theater,” said Tech. Sgt. Stephanie Durham, who served as the mission clinical coordinator. “The majority of time I’ve flown in the AOR, it’s been

with Reserve and Guard crews. So it makes perfect sense – we need to train how we fight.”

Maj. Derek Poellet, 95th AS aircraft commander for the July 19 training mission, agreed.

“It’s all about the active duty and Reserve working together,” he said. “Our new organizational structure shows active duty units under our operations group. So it’s exciting to see us working together so quickly.”

In the next year, the 440th Operations Group will gain a new Reserve squadron when the 440th Aeromedical Squadron is activated. In addition, the 440th Operations Group will gain operational direction over the 43rd AES (and 2nd Airlift Squadron) when the much anticipated active association is implemented.

Picture perfect

Photographer keeps wing mission in focus

For more than 10 years, Madison-based photographer Joe Oliva has shared his flair of photography by capturing 440th Airlift Wing Airmen at their best. Mr. Oliva recently sat down with the Flying Badger to talk about his photos and memories of the wing.

FB: *About how many photos have you shot for the 440th?*

JO: Well, I can't really say since I have been doing it off and on since 1997, but including presidential visit support the figure is easily in the hundreds. I can tell you that I shot more than 400 photos in

one day when we did Reservists portraits in December when the other photographer couldn't make it.

FB: *How many photos have you shot for the military?*

JO: I have shot thousands of pictures (perhaps tens of thousands) on military-related projects. Of course in the editing down process, the actual number that have been used is several hundred.

FB: *What type of equipment do you use?*

JO: Most of my work is done with medium format film cameras. These cameras produce a huge film negative that offers vastly superior resolution and quality than 35mm film, and even digital. The downside of the cameras I use is that there is no auto focus, no auto exposure, and no motorized film advance, making these cameras very difficult to use. Though medium format cameras are difficult to use, the results justify the effort. I am starting to transition into digital for subjects that are beyond the capabilities of my film cameras, but I will most likely continue shooting large film as long as they make it.

FB: *This is a hobby, right? What is your full-time job?*

JO: A hobby? Yeah, a horribly expensive hobby! My "day job" is working as a senior instrumentation specialist for the University of Wisconsin Medical School. That's a fancy name for "technical problem solver" which interestingly enough is what most of my photo projects involve.

FB: *How much time have you spent aircraft?*

JO: I have stopped keeping track of the time I have spent in military aircraft, though I can say



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that I have flown in military aircraft every year but one since 1992. I also hold an Airline Transport Pilot's license, and have logged over 4,000 hours of pilot-in-command time.

FB: *What is your most memorable photo shoot involving military?*

JO: There are many that come to mind from stealth fighters to Chuck Yeager and everything in between. My most memorable was the 440th air-to-air over Lambeau Field and downtown Milwaukee. I had much experience shooting air-to-air, but never from a C-130.

The 95th Airlift Squadron crews had much experience flying C-130s, but had never flown a photo mission. It was probably the most challenging photo shoot I had ever attempted for a variety of reasons.

The day before the shoot, we came up with a plan, and thoroughly briefed it, the briefings taking much longer than the actual flight! The next day, as we were about to begin our flight, the number 3 engine wouldn't start. We exited the airplane, and watched the 440 Maintenance Squadron work on the plane for an hour. They tried starting the engine, but no dice.

I thought for sure we would have to cancel the mission. The maintainers went back to work, and 45 minutes later had the engine fixed. We took off two hours late, but during that time the light had gone from merely ok, to really good! It was a complex mission, but it went off exactly as we planned it.

We ended up with some really spectacular pictures for the 440th because of the skill of the 95 AS aircrews and the "can do" attitude of the 440 MXS.

FB: *What is your favorite 440th memory?*



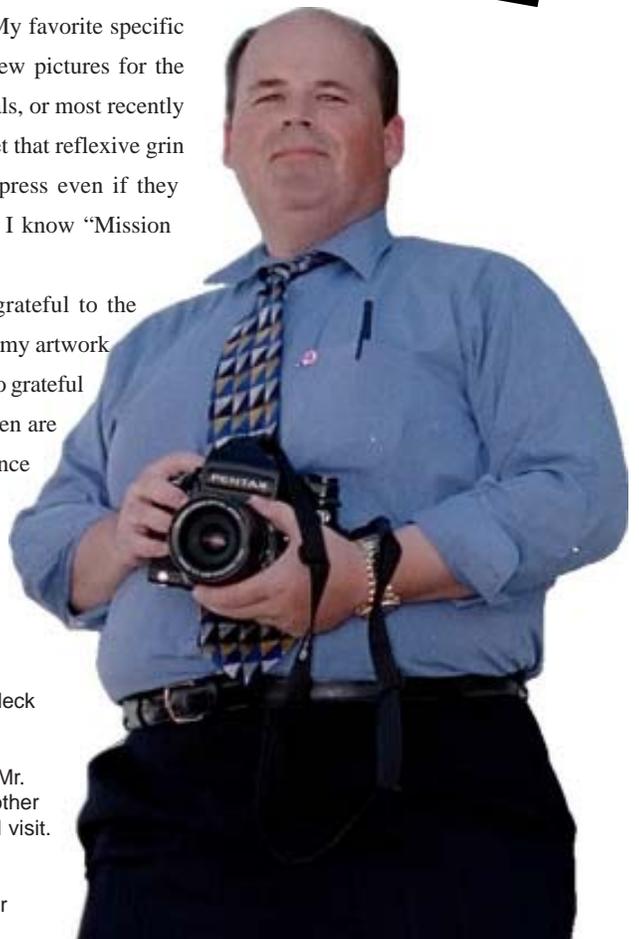
JO: My favorite 440th memories are most definitely the people I've met, and the good friends I've made. My favorite specific memories are when people see new pictures for the first time, like the downtown aerials, or most recently the fireworks pictures, and they get that reflexive grin on their face that they can't suppress even if they wanted to. When I see that look, I know "Mission Accomplished!"

I must also add that I am very grateful to the commanders who see the value of my artwork and encourage its creation. I am also grateful to the enlisted force who quite often are the ones who "make it happen" once it has been approved from above.

Left: One of Joe Oliva's signature photos is a 440th C-130 flying over Lambeau Field.

Above: Mr. Oliva shot this award-winning night scene on the flight deck of a 440th Airlift Wing C-130.

Right: Usually behind the camera, Mr. Oliva was captured on film by another photographer during a Presidential visit. The Madison-based photographer frequently volunteered to support photography at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis.





Department of Labor experts help 440th civilians find work with career retraining, resume and cover letter workshops, job fair

by 1st Lt. Jeff Schoen

As the base begins to wind down for closure, the 440th civilian personnel office is ramping up services to assist full-time civilian, air reserve technicians and contractors find their next job.

Throughout the month of August, the civilian personnel office will be hosting several workshops to help full-time base employees tune their resume writing skills and interviewing techniques. In late September, the office will host a Civilian Job Fair on base.

Earlier this year, civilian personnel staff applied and received a state

grant from the Department of Workforce Development that has paid for this program. According to Michelle Reyes, Human Resource Specialist, the program will probably continue through the end of the year to coincide with the base closure, but base employees should enroll as soon as possible to receive maximum benefits.

The purpose of the program is to provide retraining benefits to help dislocated employees stay marketable, said Joe Oulahan, case manager for the WIA Dislocated Workers Program. There are numerous benefits to the program, including assessment,

free workshops, retraining, job search assistance, career planning and employer reimbursement for on-the-job training (OJT).

According to Mr. Oulahan, there are potentially 350 base employees who qualify for these benefits, but to date only 130 have enrolled. Mr. Oulahan emphasizes that employees must be enrolled in the program to receive benefits. "If you don't enroll, you're not eligible," Mr. Oulahan added.

If you think you qualify or would like to enroll call Patt Maass at 482-5030 or Joe Oulahan at 482-6242.

Upcoming Career Workshops

Cover Letters & Networking

Thursday, Aug. 23, 9 - 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

Getting the Most out of Job Fairs

Thursday, Sept. 13, 1 - 2 p.m.

Both workshops are held in Building 101, Room 129.

Workshops are open to 440th civilians and reservists. There is no charge to attend.

Promotions

The following officers were selected for promotion to Lt. Col. Later pin-on dates are indicated.

Lt. Col. John Bowen
 Lt. Col. Jenny Carpentier
 Lt. Col. Ann Knabe
 Lt. Col. Paul Knapp
 Lt. Col. John Schmidt
 Maj. Glenn Collins, Feb. 21, 2008
 Maj. Rosemary Cooper, Oct. 1, 2007
 Maj. John Smigla, Oct. 1, 2007

Good luck

The 440th Airlift Wing says goodbye to the following reservists who have retired, separated or taken another assignment:

Lt. Col. Thomas Slattery
 Maj. Sue Hoff
 Maj. Jason Schroeder
 Capt. Julianna Olson
 Capt. Michael Schaefer
 CMSgt. Mark Maslowski
 CMSgt. Daniel Vanhandel
 CMSgt. Lance Ward
 SMSgt. Jason Busch
 SMSgt. Vincent Leto Jr.
 SMSgt. Keith Heapes
 SMSgt. Robert Hultgren
 SMSgt. Brian Smith
 SMSgt. Sandra Tank

SMSgt. Mark Tranel
 SMSgt. Martin Umentum
 MSgt. John Ambeau Jr.
 MSgt. Debra Bernhardt
 MSgt. Dennis Carow
 MSgt. Jackie Custer
 MSgt. John Drossel
 MSgt. Michael Eckhardt
 MSgt. Kenneth Erickson
 MSgt. Joseph Gaca
 MSgt. James Grudnowski
 MSgt. Ronald Gustafson
 MSgt. Adam Henkels
 MSgt. Amy Jobelius
 MSgt. Dennis Jones
 MSgt. James Jungwirth
 MSgt. Ken Kiefer
 MSgt. Thomas Kondziella
 MSgt. Chad Lawrence
 MSgt. Susan Lierman
 MSgt. Glenn Lowe
 MSgt. Albert Marolf
 MSgt. Shawn McCabe
 MSgt. Timothy Mirocha
 MSgt. Frank Negron
 MSgt. Roger Pattie
 MSgt. George Rabe
 MSgt. Michael Remter
 MSgt. John Sacco
 MSgt. Karl Schramm
 MSgt. Alan Schumacher
 MSgt. Gregory Sielepkowski
 MSgt. Kujtim Sinani
 MSgt. Kaija Slaukstinsbyrkit

MSgt. Mark Stacey
 MSgt. Peter Steinys
 MSgt. Carmelo Treviso
 MSgt. Jeffrey Venus
 MSgt. John Wenzell
 TSgt. Kevin Baker
 TSgt. Timothy Bensen
 TSgt. Duane Brown
 TSgt. Michael Cieslinski
 TSgt. Richard Deitche
 TSgt. Thomas Dobbins
 TSgt. Wayne Foy
 TSgt. Sean Goggins
 TSgt. Steven Grossmueller
 TSgt. Tobias Gruchot
 TSgt. Todd Halverson
 TSgt. Colm Heneghan
 TSgt. Edgar Jackson
 TSgt. John Joyce
 TSgt. Keith Kieliszewski
 TSgt. Joann King
 TSgt. Daniel Kraft
 TSgt. Gary Lane
 TSgt. Richard Lindquist
 TSgt. Stephen Markowski
 TSgt. Lee McCann
 TSgt. Jeffrey Morton
 TSgt. Eric Orcholski
 TSgt. John Richter
 TSgt. Kevin Sampson
 TSgt. Kenneth Schwingendorf
 TSgt. Joelli Soccorso
 TSgt. Stephen Staedler
 TSgt. Troy Trull

TSgt. George Zaboklicki
 SSgt. Joseph Bailey
 SSgt. Jeffrey Burke
 SSgt. Adam Craft
 SSgt. Sabrina Drogos
 SSgt. Marc Huguet
 SSgt. Earl Johnson
 SSgt. Cotey Jordan
 SSgt. Andrew Lamia
 SSgt. Steven Lee
 SSgt. Robin Miller
 SSgt. Christian Obrochta
 SSgt. Ryan Sandee
 SSgt. Eric Schaubroeck
 SSgt. Jeffrey Shampo
 SSgt. Percy Strowhorn Jr.
 SSgt. Juanell Winters
 SrA Ardi Benliro
 SrA William Briscolino
 SrA Ryan Collins
 SrA James Faustmann
 SrA Tiffany Koch
 SrA Robert Lapin
 SrA Luke Morarend
 SrA Daniel Olson
 SrA Bryan Schmidt
 SrA Brandon Stayner
 SrA Rebecca Stewart
 SrA Mary Struck
 SrA Jerome Wy
 A1C John Hermans

TRICARE Select Reserve insurance available to all reservists Oct. 1

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFP) — Reservists can begin signing up Aug. 11 for more affordable Tricare Select Reserve health care that starts Oct. 1.

For some, it means they will pay a third of what they are paying today.

“All drilling reservists, including individual mobilization augmentees, will have access to the health-care benefit at its lowest premium rate,” said Lt. Col. Alexander Alex, Air Force Reserve Command’s health benefits manager.

“Interested reservists, including those who are currently enrolled in Tricare Reserve Select, must fill out a newly developed Defense Department Form 2896-1 to take part in this restructured program.”

In the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress told Defense Department officials to restructure the plan’s three-tier payment system, which has been in effect since 2006. Dr. David S.C. Chu, deputy secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed the new policy Aug. 3.

Under the system that ends Sept. 30, only reservists on or recently returned from a contingency operation qualify for Tier 1, the lowest cost premium.

Reservists in Tier 3 pay the most each month, \$247 for the reservist alone and \$767.41 for the reservist and family. They include people who haven’t been in a contingency recently, who are not self-employed, who work for an employer who of-

fers a health care plan or who do not qualify for unemployment compensation as determined by state law.

That all changes starting Oct. 1. All drilling reservists will pay the lowest premium, \$81 a month for single coverage. Monthly premiums for reservists and families will be \$253. Tricare will adjust premiums annually on Jan. 1.

“We’ve been working hard for years to improve health-care benefits for all reservists, and this is a big step in that process,” said Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, AFRC’s vice commander.

The general encourages all reservists to study the program to see if it meets their needs.

“As a health-care consultant, I have looked at numerous plans,”

Colonel Alex said. “And this is a very competitive 80/20 indemnity plan where the government pays 80 percent and the member pays 20 percent of the cost share.

“One of its huge benefits is the pharmacy program,” he said. “If used wisely, members can get a 90-day supply of medicine for \$3 per prescription.”

Another plus to the plan is its \$1,000 catastrophic cap, among the lowest in the industry, according to Colonel Alex.

“Once a member has paid \$1,000 in a fiscal year, Tricare will pay 100 percent of the Tricare allowable cost after that,” he said.

Tribute to retiring wing Airmen



Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wis. --Staff Sgt. James Schneider (left) and Senior Airman Ryan John fold a flag in front of the wing headquarters building July 4. The two Airmen joined Staff Sgt. Derrick Ray, Senior Airman Jesus Sanchez and Master Sgt. Marc Nienhaus to fly more than 125 flags on Independence Day. The flags will be given to retiring 440th Airlift Wing Airmen in ceremonies prior to the base closing in September. Airman Ryan is from the 934th Airlift Wing in Minneapolis, while the other four Airmen are from the 440th Airlift Wing Det. 2 at Gen. Mitchell International Air Reserve Station, Wis.

photo by Tech. Sgt. Steve Staedler

Savor your memories

The 440th Alumni Association wants you!

The 440th Alumni Association encourages 440th members and friends to join. In addition to information sharing, regular meetings give people the opportunity to stay in touch with fellow 440th members and stay current with the people and history of the 440th.

For more information, call Ed Thomas at 482-5303 or Larry Guenther at 482-5401 on base. More information is also available from Al Shutta at 414-282-9225 or James Anderson at 262-821-1841, or Ed Thomas at 414-427-8256 or Larry Guenther at 262-284-9779. The Association meets the second Thursday of the month at Amelia's for lunch and camaraderie. Amelia's restaurant is located at 724 E. Layton Ave.

440th Airlift Wing
Office of Public Affairs
300 East College Avenue
Gen. Mitchell Air Reserve Station, WI 53207

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